ARC-OVER

The official newsletter of the Turlock Amateur Radio Club

August 2026

Our 97th Year

President's Corner

A few words from our leader, Eric, K7RKU

I want to start by thanking all the volunteers who made this year's Field Day such a success. Your time and effort mean more than you know. I'd also like to thank our Field Day host TJ KO6HFA and his wife Lori for their gracious hospitality in hosting the club's event this year.

One of my goals has been to keep TARC welcoming to new hams, educational for everyone, and genuinely fun. Whether you've held a license for decades or passed your Technician test last month, there's a place for you here.

I believe showing up "just for fun" matters more than we give it credit. A POTA activation, a net check-in, or a shift at Field Day builds real comfort with your gear and the bands, the kind no manual can teach.

That comfort is what shows up when it counts. The more of us who feel at home behind a microphone, the more of us ready to help when it matters.

Thank you for being part of this club. It's an honor to serve alongside you.

-Eric K7RKU

Greg, KN6ZGE and his crew work the 20-meter band

Field Day 2027 Planning Begins

Strong showing this year, talk of building a better next year is already ongoing

It might seem early to be talking about an event that's still eleven months out, but anyone who has helped organize Field Day knows better. Between reserving the site, coordinating antennas and power, lining up operators for every shift, and making sure there's shade and coffee for everyone, Field Day is easily the biggest logistical undertaking TARC takes on all year. Getting a head start now means less scrambling next June.

The good news is that this year's event left us with more than good memories. It left us with a head start. Several improvements the club made for 2026 will carry forward directly into next year's planning, saving real time and effort. The new vinyl signage

(Cont. on page 3)

New ham makes his first CW contact at Field Day

Field Day has a way of turning curiosity into confidence, and this year it happened right before Eric K7RKU's eyes. Eric shared this story about fellow member Kyle Brown KO6MAT, and it's the kind of moment that reminds us why we do what we do.

"After studying Morse code only on a straight key, Kyle got a surprise at Field Day. He's newly licensed and a new member of TARC. After watching me work a CW paddle, Kyle gave it a try for just a few minutes. He caught on instantly, sending a string of clean, solid CW and logging his very first CW contact! Hats off to this young ham, who will undoubtedly become an expert CW operator."

Stories like this are what Field Day is all about. A newer ham stepping outside his comfort zone, a fellow member willing to share the mic and a little know-how, and a first CW contact that Kyle will probably remember for the rest of his ham radio journey.

Congratulations, Kyle, and welcome to the world of CW. Thanks to Eric for passing along the story and for helping grow the next generation of code operators in TARC.

Senior Member wins grand raffle prize

"I never won anyting in my life!"

Every member who showed up for Field Day this year walked away with one free raffle ticket, a chance at a solar generator kit complete with panel and charge controller (bring your own battery). When the appointed hour came, Kevin KO6HZC reached into the coffee can to pull the winning ticket.

His eyes went wide, a grin spread across his face, and he called out the name: Terry KJ6DXT. Terry looked like he'd seen a ghost.

"I never won anything in my life," he kept saying, completely floored. The whole group crowded around with congratulations, sharing in a moment that made the whole day memorable.

Friday, October 16-Sunday, October 18, 2026
San Ramon Marriott
2600 Bishop Drive
San Ramon, CA 94583

Potluck Highlights

Photos by Don W6DEJ

Lots more at w6dej.com/hamradio/

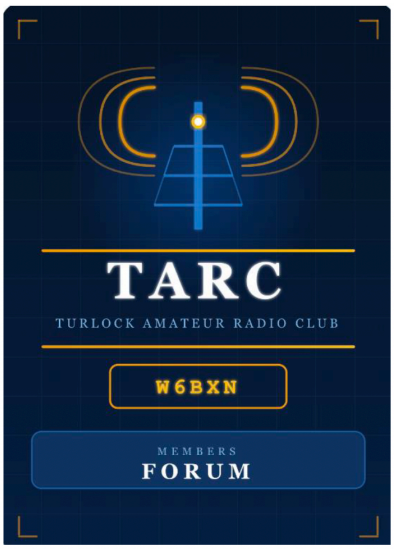
2026 Club Officers

President Eric K7RKU
Vice President Don W6DEJ
Secretary Dennis KO6KPD
Treasurer Kevin KO6HZC
Sergeant at Arms Jerry KN6GJK
Member at Large John N6JCS
Member at Large Greg KN6ZGE
Club Trustee Spencer KJ6ART

For all club inquiries, including membership status, please send an email to info@w6bxn.org

Thanks to everyone who has renewed, joined, or donated to the club. **You can pay your dues online.** Details at w6bxn.org.

Repeaters: Full details at w6bxn.org/repeaters/



Good food and hungry people, that's a recipe for a successful event. A nice crowd showed up and the food started disappearing fast. Tri-tip was the highlight, cooked just right. Mouthwatering desserts outnumbered the main course items. After the meal, conversation was on the menu and was every bit as delicious as the food. Lena, KN6VOH went home with the top raffle prize, a very nice YETI cooler. This potluck turned out to be very lucky. No complaints were heard, and nobody left early.

Planning (cont. from p.1)

is a standout: reusable signs posted from the highway through the several turns that have tripped up first timers in years past, each one marked with clear wording and arrows pointing the way in. Once on the property, small American flags planted along the ground marked the driving lanes, so guests and members alike knew exactly where to go without anyone standing around directing traffic. The band pass filters brought in for several of the HF bands also earned their keep, cutting down on the interstation interference that has plagued multi-transmitter Field Day sites for years and letting more stations run at once without stepping on each other.

Power was all LiFePO4 batteries this year, with several stations recharging via solar through the day. No generators were needed to keep the radios running. Generators did make an appearance late in the afternoon, but only to cool down the campers' RVs. Speaking of which, the weather cooperated in a way nobody expected: after enduring a brutal 100 plus degree Field Day last year, everyone was pleasantly surprised by mild, comfortable temperatures this time around. Here's hoping 2027 is just as kind.

Most bands quieted down for the night, as they usually do, but Field Day doesn't fully stop. One member volunteered to stay up through the overnight hours running 80 meters solo, and the results were remarkable: he logged more contacts than any single daytime station managed. It's a good reminder that some of the best operating conditions show up after the crowd has gone to bed, and a nice bit of friendly motivation for anyone thinking about taking the night shift in 2027.

Beyond the logistics, this year's Field Day was simply a great learning experience. Members came away with a better handle on antenna performance under real field conditions, worked through equipment quirks that only show up when you're running off batteries instead of a home station, and traded notes on operating technique that will make next year's crew even sharper. That kind of hands on knowledge doesn't come from a manual. It comes from a full day and night on the air with your fellow club members.

Perhaps most encouraging was watching several of the club's newer licensees get real microphone time. Any licensed member was free to operate any station on any band, with a higher class operator simply nearby to lend a hand if needed. The same friendly arrangement applied to GOTA (Get On The Air) for unlicensed guests, who got to make their very first contacts with an experienced ham right at their elbow. For a lot of new hams, the hardest part of the hobby isn't passing the test. It's working up the nerve to make that first contact, and Field Day's low pressure, well supervised setup is about as good a place as any to get that first taste of on air operating. Confidence built there tends to carry straight into regular net check-ins and everyday ragchewing on the repeater.

For those unfamiliar with the event, ARRL Field Day is held on the fourth full weekend of June every year and doubles as both a friendly operating exercise and a real test of emergency readiness. Clubs and individuals across the U.S. and Canada set up temporary stations, often running on battery, solar, or generator power, and see how many contacts they can make over the course of the event using improvised antennas and off grid setups. It's the same skill set that matters when the power goes out and ARES gets the call, which is exactly why the ARRL has run it every year since 1933.

With all of that fresh in mind, now is the time to start thinking about next year. Ideas for the 2027 event, whether about site logistics, additional band coverage, more GOTA opportunities, or anything else, are welcome at any general meeting or by reaching out to any Board member. The earlier the ideas come in, the more the club can do.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 11, 7PM
Amateur Radio Exam begins at 6PM

From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to the new look of *The Arc-Over!* I hope you like it. I wanted to freshen up the format a bit and give the newsletter a more polished, consistent layout issue to issue. Along with that, I'm aiming for more of a personal touch, with more current events from around the club and plenty of photos sprinkled throughout. I think it will help these pages feel more like us.

None of this would be possible without a strong foundation to build on. A big thank you to Lucian for five years at the helm of *The Arc-Over*. That's no small effort, and this newsletter is what it is today because of that work.

As always, *The Arc-Over* is for the whole club. Member written articles and photos are always welcome, whether it's a recent on-air contact, a project you're working on, or just something ham radio related you want to share. You can submit them via direct message at The Call.

I can't wait to bring you great material month after month! And I'd love to hear from all of you.

Don, W6DEJ

Heard on *The Call...*

"*What is used ham gear worth?*"
...Eric

"*Lithium Ion battery safety tips*"
...Guy

"*Broadcast Radio Workshop*"
...Ken

"*Top ten ham radio apps for your phone*"
...Guy

Website: tarc.club

General Meeting Agenda
Turlock Amateur Radio Club
07/14/2026, 7:00p
Salvation Army Facility, 893 Lander Ave, Turlock

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance 6:03pm
2. Introductions and What Have You Been Doing in Radio?
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
4. Officer Reports
   - President - Eric K7RKU
     - TARC Equipment Lending Library - Yaesu FT-991A all-mode transceiver AVAILABLE, HF wire antennas AVAILABLE, Baofeng HTs AVAILABLE, Just ask! We want to lend out equipment
     - TARC team building / club reputation building - Stickers!
   - Vice President / Program Committee - Don W6DEJ The Call is our club forum system. Access it from the W6BXN website. Currently has 436 messages and growing. August will be the root beer social. Sept will be on Meshtastic presented by Ken. Oct. is open and we are looking for a presenter
   - Treasurer - Kevin KO6HZC June beginning balance $8,281.96 income $767.00 expenses $1,151.26 ending balance $7,897.70
   - Trustee / Repeater Committee - Spencer KJ6ART Turlock War Memorial lease deal with the city will be zero cost to the club. Working on the antenna maintenance at the board level. Mt. Bullion we are working on the lease for some added space.
   - Arc-Over - Lucian KF6NPG Pacific-con is coming. Lucian is retiring from publishing the Arc-Over
5. Other Reports
   - Merced ARES - Dave KG6NUO In person meetings 3rd wed of the month.
6. Standing Committees

Portable Operations / Special Events Committee - Greg KN6ZGE

   - Field Day report - Fantastic time was had at field day. It cooled down and the great food was thanks to Kevin KO6HZC. Eric K7RKU made some CW contacts.
   - Upcoming plans
7. Old Business
   - Still seeking leaders willing to support TARC's Field Day
   - Are you a member? Ask us - we have a current list!
8. New Business
   - Straw Poll - ArcOver
   - Straw Poll - Field Day Location
9. Meeting Adjournment 6:33pm - a motion to adjourn was made and seconded
10. Raffle
    - Yeti Roadie 24!!
    - ARRL book
    - Bongo Ties
11. After Meeting Activity
    - TARC Annual Potluck! Woo Hoo!!

Eric K7RKU, President

General meeting minutes were prepared by the club secretary Dennis KO6KPD

Turlock Amateur Radio Club – Income/Expense – July 2026

Beginning Balance as of 07/01/2026	$7,897.70
Income	
Membership	$60.00
Raffle	$250.00
Donation	$16.00
Income total	$326.00
Expenses	
Utilities (PG&E)	$153.47
Raffle Prizes	$375.27
Antenna build materials (2025)	$129.10
Gen Meeting Refreshments	$32.39
Total Expenses	$690.23
Ending Balance as of 07/31/2026	$7,533.47

Prepared by Kevin Duffy (K06HZC)